

## Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests

### Where Wild Country Meets Wild Rivers

Wilderness and whitewater offer visitors an escape to quiet, remote natural surroundings. In Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests you can take an hour, a day or even a week to immerse yourself in the big wild. Friends and family can gather to relax, ride, hike, camp and enjoy the scenery. Blue Ribbon fisheries lure anglers, backcountry hunting, pack trails and scenic vistas draw visitors to this rich country. Traditional homeland of the Nez Perce Tribe, its history, culture and knowledge are integral values. Stories of early settlement, mining and Forest Service history are told in romantic settings of historic sites and travelways.

#### Forest-wide Settings, Special Places, and Values:

The landscapes of the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests begin in the jagged peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains and flow to the deep canyons of the Salmon, Selway and Lochsa Rivers. Broad coniferous forests cover the mountains that stretch from the rolling hills of the Palouse Plateau to the Camas Prairie. Many wildlife and fish species also call this forest home; including big game animals like the elk, deer and moose; high flyers like the bald eagle and the osprey; and anadromous fish species Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Here, visitors can enjoy a slower pace and uncrowded spaces while learning about nature and the rich human history of the Nez Perce people, early settlement, gold mining and other occupations. For the more adventurous, the untrammled land of the wilderness provides recreation opportunities while preserving natural landscapes now and into the future.

- **Wilderness Expedition and Remote Backcountry:** The Selway Bitterroot, Gospel Hump, Hells Canyon and Franck Church River of No Return Wilderness areas offer remote, wild settings for camping, hiking, packing and hunting. The Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area and the Great Burn also provide vast areas of non-motorized back country with opportunities for solitude, self reliance and a sense of freedom found in few other places.
- **Wild River Corridors:** Wild and Scenic Salmon, Selway and Lochsa Rivers provide high quality river recreation experiences for both remote and motorized use. Meandering Red River, the broad and deep North Fork of the Clearwater or any of the rivers large and small found here provide unlimited river recreation opportunities.
- **Land to Roam and Ride:** Large, relatively undeveloped country offers visitors thousands of miles of designated roads and trails to drive, ride, hike, or pack on. Historic ridgeline corridors along the Lolo Trail and Magruder Corridor trace the paths of the Nez Perce, Lewis and Clark and early traders. These large backcountry areas offer adventure, challenge and opportunities to spend days exploring without ever following the same route twice.
- **Convenient Connections:** Areas closer to home can be found that provide connections to nature for local visitors. Many day use, overnight sites and scenic drives are available within minutes of many small communities. Here, locals can conveniently escape the daily grind, and enjoy the abundant river and mountain recreational opportunities and the rest and relaxation they provide.

#### Forest-wide Activities, Opportunities, and Experiences:

Across the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests nature provides an extraordinary scenic back drop for day use, overnight camping, hiking, big game hunting, fishing and boating. Outdoor activities happen year round, with snowmobiling and cross country skiing rounding out the year. Visitors can travel extensive scenic byways, visit interpretive and educational sites that reveal the rich history of the region, reach areas of the backcountry on foot or in a vehicle and view wildlife in their natural surroundings. Outfitters and guides and other private partners also offer quality recreation experiences for users who may require help with skills and equipment.

- **Wilderness Expedition and Remote Backcountry:** Activities include backpacking and stock use on an extensive system of trails. Typical stays are multi-day expeditions that may include the use of back-country air strips and primitive camping.
- **Wild River Corridors:** Rafting, kayaking, jet boating, primitive camping and multi-day excursions are all available here, depending on the river being visited. Primitive and developed camping is available where access is by passenger vehicle.
- **Land to Roam and Ride:** Hiking, horse packing, fishing, hunting, primitive and developed camping, motorized use on designated routes and overnight stays in historic cabins are popular in this setting.
- **Convenient Connections:** These forests offer hiking, horseback riding as well as motorized riding on designated routes. Overnight stays in historic cabins as well as campground accommodating larger RVs are also available. Access to rivers for fishing, floating and dispersed camping is plentiful. Viewing scenery, picnicking, and informational sites for day use are popular. Winter sports are enjoyed on groomed trails or in areas of self exploration.

### Primary Visitors

Inland Empire Locals	Communities contiguous to the Forest within 120 miles.
Regional	Communities within 250 miles; holiday users, fishing, camping, OHV, Boise, Oregon, Washington
National	Over 250 miles: Hunting, fishing, river running, fly in to remote airstrips, often outfitted guests.
International	Destination visitors to Wild and Scenic Rivers and Wilderness Areas; often outfitted guests.